



From the desk of the Senior Commander

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips
3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear

As I write this column, approximately 300 Fort Stewart Soldiers are conducting a search operation for a Noncommissioned Officer Academy student who got lost while training in the woods there. It can happen to anybody. She has been missing since about 6 p.m., and tonight the woods will be a cold and lonely place, where a fall into a swamp could lead to hypothermia, especially if it's accompanied by an injury – better to find this Soldier now.

The units conducting the search include elements of Vanguard Brigade, as well as about 130 academy students and cadre. We have an unmanned aerial vehicle in the air. The brigade, like most of the division still here, is preparing to deploy "to the box." Vanguard seized the no-notice mission to find this Soldier tonight with all the decisiveness you'd expect of a Marne outfit preparing for war.

The mission of finding a Soldier lost (and hopefully safely hunkered down) in the blackness out there is

not very different from the mission of finding a Soldier missing from a patrol. There are plenty of unknowns; the need for speed, positive control, coordination and communications; agility; and – perhaps most important – sergeants applying solid troop leadership within teams.

Vanguard is, tonight, using its training to conduct a real-world operation, which in turn is further preparing it for its deployment mission. They will succeed.

Visit our DFACs

There's an old saying: "an Army marches on its stomach." Whether you march or ride, chow is important, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen and I eat in our chow halls regularly to see for ourselves what is being served. After doing this for the past two months, I am confident that our cooks – military and civilian – want to serve you great food.

I've had some excellent chow lately – a couple weeks ago, salmon soup at



Vanguard's dining facility; a week later, breakfast potatoes at Ranger DFAC, better than any I've had "outside the gate;" BBQ ribs last week at WTU's DFAC that several Soldiers were demolishing without coming up for air – and today, rich and tasty spaghetti with meat sauce, made by Pfc. Ryan Payeur and Pfc. Frank Collado at the Ranger DFAC.

The Thanksgiving meals the crews at all our DFACs labored over would've made my grandmother envious.

Sometimes we do fall short, maybe because of adherence to policies that need revision, or because of training shortfalls, or other reasons. But cooks like – love – to cook, and my job as senior commander is to help create the conditions in which they can be as good with their tools as any Marne 11B or 88M or 68W can with his or hers.

As any corporal knows, you can't improve what you haven't evaluated, and you can't truly evaluate what you haven't used. Our DFAC teams appre-

ciate the presence of leaders, just as any Soldiers appreciate having a leader care enough to "be present." I encourage, and expect, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield leaders of all ranks to at least occasionally use the facilities their Soldiers use. Many, I am sure, already are. I know you'll agree: it's basic leadership. Our food service managers are focusing on bringing you the best chow possible. We agree; our dining facilities ought to be the best place to go for consistently great chow. You be the judge; if you like something, tell a DFAC NCO. If not, do the same or inform your chain of command. If a chow hall Soldier needs recognizing, I am happy to come over with a coin (and a fork)!

Give to others this season

It's the season to think of others and we're in the home stretch of the CFC campaign, which ends Dec. 15. Please consider a gift to someone less fortunate this holiday season.

Final note: it's 11:50 p.m. and Command Sgt. Maj. Ashmen just told me the Soldier was found, safe and sound. Rock of the Marne!

AFGHANISTAN

from Page 1A

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 87th Combat Service Support Battalion, and Soldiers with B Detachment, 24th Finance Company, were notified that their units were on an official request for forces from U.S. Army Forces Command for a potential deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 87th CSSB's deployment window is from March 5 to 25 and the

24th Finance Co.'s window is from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5.

"We are proud of our Marne Soldiers as they prepare to deploy to support Operation Enduring Freedom," said 3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips. "Our Army will ensure they are trained and ready and that their Families are well supported."

General Casey said that if the Iraq drawdown continues, the Army will

move closer to its goals for dwell time – increasing the time troops spend at home between deployments – eventually reaching a 1:2 dwell time for active-duty Soldiers, and a 1:4 dwell time for Reserve component Soldiers.

"Even with the increase ordered by the president, we estimate that about 70 percent of the active component will reach these goals by 2011," he wrote. "The remainder of the force

will continue to see their dwell rate increase and should meet these goals by 2012."

During a speech Dec. 1 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., President Barack Obama announced the increase of 30,000 servicemembers to support the 68,000 already in Afghanistan, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It is in our vital national interest to send an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan," Pres. Obama said. "After 18 months, our troops will begin to come home. These are the resources that we need to seize the initiative, while building the Afghan capacity that can allow for a responsible transition of our forces out of Afghanistan."

Criteria for a drawdown would include the ability of the Afghans to provide security for their own country, said David S. Sedney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia.

"There's the criteria that we'll be looking for, and it'll be a district-by-district, province-by-province process," Sedney said in a blogger's roundtable, Dec. 1.

Equipping the Afghans to provide that security would be the role of both American Soldiers and Coalition partners, said Brig. Gen. John Nicholson, director of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell, Joint Staff.

"We are also, with these additional forces, going to act as a critical catalyst to accelerate their development," Nicholson said of the Afghan Army.



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Francisco V. Govea II
A Soldier stands against the Afghan skyline after securing a combat outpost in Rajankala in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, Nov. 26.

We're here to help!

If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening emergency or is attempting to commit suicide, the first response is to call 911. For other urgent mental health concerns, specialists are available:

During normal duty hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.):

Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): (912) 767-1654

Fort Stewart Family Life Chaplains: (912) 767-1814/5409

Mental Health Community/Military and Family Life Consultants (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): (912) 767-1647

Family Support Issues/Family Readiness Center (191 Lindquist Road, building 87): (912) 767-5058

Hunter Army Airfield Tuttle Army Health Clinic (230 Duncan Drive, building 1440): (912) 315-4240/6125

During non-duty hours:
Winn Army Community Emergency Room (1061 Harmon Ave): 911

On Call Chaplain: Contact the Division Operations Center (24/7) at (912) 435-9732/9733 to request chaplain assistance for yourself or for someone you believe is depressed and in danger of harming themselves.

Suicide Prevention Hotline Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Army OneSource Help Line 1-800-342-9647



3rd ID, community celebrate holidays with parades, tree lightings



3rd ID celebrates ‘Christmas on the Coast’



Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th IBCT Public Affairs

The holidays are here, and the 3rd Infantry Division shared in the spirit of Christmas with the local community, Dec. 4.

Fourth Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers, who trailed Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips, 3rd ID deputy commanding general-rear, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen, 3rd ID command sergeant major-rear, marched through downtown Hinesville during Liberty County’s 13th annual Illuminated Christmas Parade.

Special to the parade, Colonel Lou Lartigue, 4th IBCT commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Altman, 4th IBCT senior enlisted advisor, led

703rd Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers in the singing of the Dog Face Soldier Song. Traditionally, the 3rd ID Band performs a variety of holiday tunes, but the Marne musicians, along with nearly 14,000 Marne Division Soldiers, are currently supporting the era of persistent conflict.

Deployed Soldiers were able to watch the parade from afar, however, as Savannah news station, WTOC Web cast the recorded event, Dec. 5.

“This community rallies behind the troops,” said WTOC Anchor Dawn Baker, during the parade.

The Liberty County Illuminated Christmas Parade also featured floats, dancers, beauty queens and, of course, Santa.

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

Vanguard Brigade commander, Col. Lou Lartigue, and Vanguard Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Altman lead 703rd BSB, 4th IBCT Soldiers in Liberty County’s 13th annual Illuminated Christmas Parade, Dec. 4.

Hinesville tree lighting

Pat Young
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The Liberty County Christmas Tree-Lighting at Bradwell Park, Nov. 30, proved to be an illuminating experience for the more than 3,000 community members who attended.

The event featured a variety of events and attractions including the traditional photo with Santa Claus, Christmas caroling provided by local schools, a nativity scene and more.

Fort Stewart joined with other community partners, local businesses, civic organizations, churches, schools and community members to help make the event special.

Liberty County Teacher of the Year, Amanda Durden, led the Bradwell Institute Choir through several Holiday Songs; while the Vietnam Veterans of America handed out free Chocolate Coco; Bethesda Church offering free popcorn; while children climbed into Santa’s Sleigh, pulled by real reindeer, provided by Georgia Reindeer out of Polk County, Ga.

Alana Soule, 6, a 1st grader at Jordy Bacon Elementary School visited the

site to let Santa know she wanted a bicycle for Christmas, but found there was a lot more to do that included arts, crafts and event a bounce house.

Sergeant Rocky the Bulldog, was also on-hand and was a center of attention as children stopped to pet him and feed him treats.

One of Rocky’s visitors was 15-month-old Sadie Lynn Lucas, who attended the lighting with her parents, Pfc. Johnathan and Krissy Lucas. Private First Class Lucas, a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier, said he wanted to spend time with his Family before he deployed to Iraq.

The 3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips, was also on-hand to help pull the switch to light the tree.

He said events like the lighting were important as they displayed the partnership shared between installation and local community members. He said that partnership was appreciated because it allowed Soldiers to know that their Families are being taken care of here, so they can concentrate on their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Pat Young

Georgia Reindeer from Polk County, Ga, greet spectators at the Hinesville tree lighting, Nov. 30.

Right: Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, led by Executive Officer Maj. Ioannis Kiriazis, march in the Vidalia Christmas Parade, Dec. 5. More than 50 Cottonbaler Soldiers participated in the annual event. This year’s theme was "I'll be home for Christmas."



3SB celebrates Christmas with Richmond Hill parade

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson

Colonel Shawn Morrissey, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, command sergeant major for the 3rd Sustainment Bde., wave to the crowds during Richmond Hill's annual Christmas parade, Dec. 5.



Dina McKain

Soldiers from the 87th Combat Service Support Battalion march in the Richmond Hill Christmas parade, Dec. 5. Third Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Shawn Morrissey and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson also participated in the parade.

Don't drink & drive: Tow to Go



"Tow to Go" is a partnership between AAA Auto Club South & Budweiser. It is FREE and open to all, and is 100% confidential.

Call 1•800•AAA•HELP. The call will be directed to an ERS Call Center The AAA tow truck takes the vehicle and the driver safely home. Tickets are not required to participate in program.

Purpose: This program is designed to protect both the intoxicated driver and the motoring public from avoidable car crashes.

Coverage Areas: Tow to Go program is available throughout Florida and in Metro Atlanta, Savannah, and Metro Nashville now through New Year's Day Weekend, 2009 Tow to Go Holiday Schedule.

Since its inception in 1998, "Tow to Go" has safely removed more than 8,600 drunk drivers from the roads and is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

Sponsored by the Installation Safety Office 767-7880

DUI

from Page 1A

"We will be out in force conducting sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and using under-cover officers to get more drunk drivers off the road—and save lives that might otherwise be lost.

"Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state. Yet we continue to see far too many people suffer debilitating injuries and loss of their loved ones as a result of impaired driving. This careless disregard for human life must stop. To help ensure that happens, the Directorate of Emergency Services is dedicated to arresting impaired drivers wherever and whenever we find

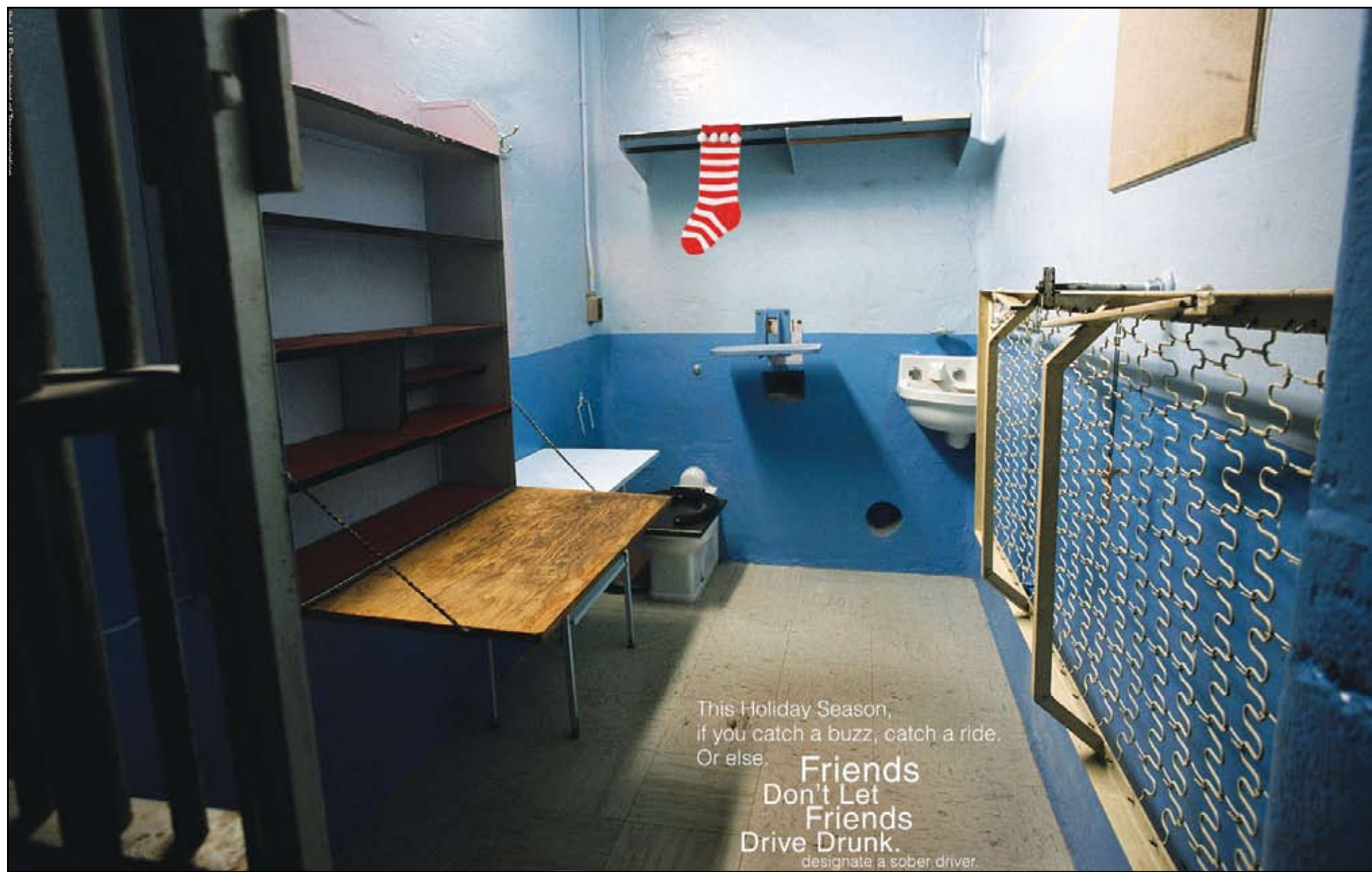
them," said Podmore.

"Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant," said Podmore. "Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work and dozens of other expenses. So don't take the chance. Remember, if you are over the limit, you are under arrest."

The national "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit.

Under Arrest," impaired driving crackdown is a deterrence program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity. This December's effort is supported by \$7.5 million in paid-national advertising to help put everyone on notice that if they are caught driving impaired, they will be arrested.

For more information, visit www.Stopimpaireddriving.org.



Marne Voices Speak Out

Brittin Elementary: What is your holiday wish ?

"I wish I could fly and get a PSP"

Ramses Osbey



"I wish for a Nintendo DS with games and for a Boxer puppy."

Adriana Bowen
7 years old



"I wish my Dad would come back from Iraq, an Ipod, and a Nintendo DS."

Gracen Miller
6 years old



"I wish my dad would come home from Iraq."

Samantha Rosario
9 years old



"I wish for my brothers in Iraq and Afghanistan and my Family who are spread out all over the U.S. to spend Christmas with my Family."

Jesse Taylor
11 years old



"I wish for my Dad to come home and an X Box 360."

Brendon Garcia
10 years old



Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

Send to:

Marne TV & The Frontline
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314
or email to:
stewfrontline@conus.army.mil
or fax it to (912) 767-9366

visit www.stewart.army.mil

The Frontline

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Building 419
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DUIs can be expensive

FINES – \$505

In most states, first-time DUI offenders are fined at least \$150. This can reach \$2,000 if convicted a third time. Your driver's license will be suspended for a minimum of six months, and you may be ordered to pay a driver improvement surcharge of \$355.

COURT FEES – \$500

Court fees, bail, and car impound and towing fees equal about \$500.

LEGAL FEES – \$500

Attorneys charge as little as \$500 for a quick plea. Legal fees can run as high as \$20,000 depending on the complexity of the case.

DRIVER'S LICENSE – \$60

Reinstating your license costs \$60.

INSURANCE – \$4,500

Expect your auto insurance rate to triple – an extra \$1,500 a year – for at least the next three years.

INCOME LOSS – \$4,000

Loss of four weeks income due to jail, community service, evaluations and education classes.

REHABILITATION – \$900

Alcohol treatment programs can cost about \$200. An ignition interlock costs about \$100 to install and an additional \$50 a month.

TOTAL – \$10,965

Information taken from AAA

Even if you don't hurt anyone, costs associated with a DUI conviction can easily reach in the five digits, and it can take years to restore your reputation.

“Across the country, the penalties for drinking

and driving are becoming more and more severe,” reports Jack Peet, AAA manager of community safety services.

The impact of a DUI depends on many factors, including a person's driving record, blood-alcohol content, the specific circumstances of the incident and whether or not someone was injured.

While a DUI conviction hits your wallet hard, offenders also miss work and time with their families to appear for court dates, community service, substance-abuse classes and jail sentences.

If your license is suspended, you'll have to find an alternate way to get to work, or you could lose your job if it's driving-related. Your travel to Canada may be restricted. When filling out an application, you'll have to check yes for the “Do you have a criminal record?” box. You will be able to pay off your DUI fines over time, but the stigma will always be a part of your life.



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Holiday Sunday Brunch @ FS & HAAF

13 Dec., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Club Stewart, Bldg. 405 and Hunter Club, Bldg. 6015

Menu features breakfast items and traditional Holiday favorites. Advanced tickets available from information counter at discounted rates (\$2 off for adults and \$1 off for children). No reservations required. Prices at door: CPL & below: \$12.95 for adults, \$6.45 for children (ages 5-10), children (under age 5) FREE! SGT & above (and all others): \$14.95 for adults, \$7.45 for children (ages 5-10), children (under age 5) FREE! 368-2212 (FS) or 459-7923(HAAF).

Holiday Turkey Shoot @ FS

17 Dec., 4-8 p.m. – Stewart Skeet Range, Bldg. 8332

Turkey shoot consists of 3 types of shoots (traditional, poker and trap). Fees: Traditional (\$3 per shot) and Poker-5 shots (\$3 per person) all night long, plus Trap-1 shot (\$5 per person, one time only per individual/shoot till you miss) each night. Prizes awarded per category and door prizes given out. Turkey awarded for trap shoot only. 767-2515.

Moonlight Blue Pin Bowling @ FS

19 Dec., 6 p.m.-midnight – Marne Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 402

Bowl a strike on the head pin when it is blue and receive a free game. Cost \$2.50 per game/person and \$1.75 shoe rental. 767-4866

Moonlight Bowling @ Stewart Lanes

19 Dec., Open til 2 a.m. – Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 450

Enjoy late night bowling while the cool lights and great music take away all your troubles. Cost \$2.75 per game/person after 11 p.m. and \$1.75 shoes. 767-4273

National Bowling Ball Day @ Stewart Lanes

29 Dec., 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. – Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 450

Celebrate the day the bowling ball was invented with a bowling deal you can't beat. Cost \$1.75 per game/person w/FREE shoe rental. 767-4273



Celebrate New Year's Eve With Corkan

Corkan Family Recreation Area – 31 Dec., Times Vary

Celebrate the arrival of 2010 by having some Family fun and a Corkan facility. Make your plans now to visit one of these facilities:

(Cypress Creek Adventure Golf, Bldg. 448) 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., \$1 per game/person all day. 767-9884
(Cypress Sam's Treehouse, Bldg. 449) 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., \$1.25 admission price for kids all day. 767-9884

(Corkan Teen Recreation Center, Bldg. 438) 6-11 p.m., fun activities for Teens (ages 13-18).
New Year's Eve celebration at 10 p. m. 767-3781

(Corkan Family Fun Center, Bldg. 449) 6 p.m.-1 a.m., fun activities in laser tag, roller skating, and climbing for entire Family. Matinee rates, games and prizes.
New Year's Eve celebration at Midnite. 767-9884

(Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 450) 6 p.m.-1 a.m., fun activities for entire Family. Matinee rates, games and prizes. New Year's Eve celebration at Midnite. 767-4273
Note: New Year's Day operating hours posted at each facility.

New Year's Eve Party @ FS

31 Dec. 9 p.m.-3 a.m. – Club Stewart, Bldg. 405

Advance tickets \$20 per person and day of event \$25 per person for champagne, party favors, entertainment, and balloon drop at midnite. Dinner and breakfast available for purchase. For more information and details, call 368-2212.

New Year's Eve Bowl @ FS

31 Dec., 6 p.m.-midnite – Marne Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 402

Join us for a fun-filled New Year's Eve Bowl with special games throughout the evening and prizes awarded for different events. Cost \$2 per game and \$1.75 shoe rental. 767-4866

Weekend dining facility hours posted

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facility for Dec. 12 - 13 is Vanguard Dining Facility, building 512. Fort Stewart dining facility Weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for supper. The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility for Dec. 12 - 13 is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for supper. The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902 in the national guard training area weekend serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and supper, 5-6:30 p.m.

Searches part of new gate security

Fort Stewart's and Hunter Army Airfield's Random Anti-terrorism Measure Program is in place, which means randomly-selected vehicles will be searched at Access Control Points (gates) when entering or exiting the Installations. Beginning Dec. 13, all passengers over the age of 15 will be subject to search with handheld electronic devices.

Procedures for gate pass

Individuals seeking an Installation pass must have a valid driver's license, valid insurance, valid registration and a rental agreement if applicable. Installation passes can be picked up at Gate 1 or 5 for Fort Stewart; or at Montgomery or Wilson Gates at Hunter Army Airfield. The gates are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Trees for Troops available

On Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Christmas trees donated by Christmas Spirit Foundation (representing Christmas tree growers/distributors) & FedEx will be distributed to Soldiers at Stewart Leisure Activities Center, building 443 and Hunter Auto Crafts, building 1288. One tree will be given per military Family or single Soldier on "First Come, First Served" basis. There is no charge. If there are any trees left over, they will be distributed on Saturday, Dec. 12. For more information and availability of trees, call (912) 977-5671 (Stewart) or 315-6244 (Hunter).


Employees can donate leave

Under provisions of the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, DoD Civilian employees can donate leave to approved recipients. Employees interested in donating annual leave to an approved leave recipient should submit an OPM Form 630-A to the CPAC. For more information, contact Tina Askew at 767-8358.



Commissary Holiday Hours of Operation

Sunday, Dec. 20: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 21: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
NO EARLY BIRD
Tuesday, Dec. 22: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 23: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 24: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec, 25: CLOSED
Saturday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Commercial ticket office closure

The Carlson Wagonlit commercial ticket office located in the Soldier Service Center, building 253, on Fort Stewart, will close permanently, tomorrow.

All non-Defense Transportation System (DTS) Travel will be supported through the DOL, Transportation Travel Offices located in Room 2064, building 253, on Fort Stewart, and the transportation tffice, building 1228, at Hunter Army Airfield.

For travel assistance call: Fort Stewart – 912-767-6927/6943/9188 or Hunter Army Airfield – 912-315-5528/5021

STEWART

Bridges closed for repair

Bridges 3 and 4 (vicinity MR 381290) will be closed for repair. This repair will close Fort Stewart Road 40 (tank trail) from north of the intersection with FS 38 vicinity of the Rail Marshaling Area to Georgia Highway 144 West. This closure will last until March 3, 2010, or until repairs are completed.

Newman parking lot closures

Newman Fitness Center has begun parking lot renovation. Motorists are encouraged to be alert to changes in parking. Construction will be in two phases to accommodate parking and access to building. For more information, call Teddy Kelley at 767-0226.

Apprenticeship program opens

The Fort Stewart HIRED! Apprenticeship Program is hosting its "Newbie" Session for candidates for the January Term. If you or a teen (15 - 18) that you know is interested in attending, please call 767 - 4494 and tell us, "I WANT TO GET HIRED!" Who: HIRED! What: Newbie Session; Prerequisites for New Candidates Date: Dec. 12 Time: noon to 7 p.m. Location: Bryan Village Youth Center RSVP: Required Why: In order for teens to be accepted into HIRED, they must complete these prerequisites.

East 7th Street closed

East 7th St., between French Rd. and Niles Ave., is closed due to the construction of the new Soldier Family Assistance Center. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed for the duration of the construction. Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around the area. Call 228-7451 for more information.

Bryan Village gas kiosk now open 24/7

The Bryan Village Gas Station now offers fueling 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, contact Dottie Robinson-Tramuel, branch store manager, at 368-2237.

Gingerbread Project slated for Hays Library

Look for this Special Gingerbread House project at George P. Hays Library, building 411, in partnership with Child, Youth and School Services EDGE Program from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, today and Dec. 17. Your children will hear stories about gingerbread and construct a gingerbread house. Remember that par-

ents need to enroll youth at CYSS Central Registration at 767-2312. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, call 767-1341

West Memorial Drive closed

The East-bound lane of West Memorial Drive in Hinesville will be closed to all traffic from General Stewart Way to Welborn Street for roadway construction. The West-bound lane will be open to local traffic, all businesses and properties will remain accessible during construction.

Shop of the Marne host Author Night

Local author Katherine Marris, "I Wish, A Good Book for Pondering," will be signing books at the Shop of the Marne from 4-7 p.m., tomorrow. "I Wish: A Good Book for Pondering" was named one of the Top-10 Gifts of the Atlanta Market. Contact Jamie at 767-9268 for details.

Parking lot closure announced

The parking lot southwest of Building 636 will be partially closed until 5 p.m. Dec. 23. The closure is necessary for the installation of the chilled water lines. For more information, contact Terry Wheeler, Army Corps of Engineers, at 228-7451.

HUNTER

ID card by appointment is new rule

Effective Dec. 15, the Hunter Army Airfield Identification Card Facility will transition to an appointment system. The purpose of this transition is to increase efficiency and productivity, while drastically reducing the waiting time for our valued customers. The hours of operations will remain the same, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-ins will be seen on an emergency case-by-case basis as determined by the Site Security Manager. Appointments can be scheduled online by visiting www.stewart.army.mil, "Directorates," "DHR," "ID Cards" or via telephone at (912) 315-5726 or (912) 315-6442. Also located at the Web site is general Information on the required documentation for the issuance of an ID Cards. You may direct your questions to Walter Ellis at 315-4733 or Martha Guy at 315-6840.

CID job opportunity announced

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command is seeking qualified candidates to become CID special agents. The next recruitment briefing will be held at in room 1 at the Education Center at Hunter Army Airfield at 10 a.m., Dec. 18. To apply or for more information visit www.cid.army.mil or contact your local CID office at 70 Billy Mitchell Blvd, building 100, Hunter Army Airfield, or call (912) 315-6686.



DEPLOYMENT HOURS

Hunter Burger King: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blimpie's: Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Saturday - Sunday

WTU Shoppette: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on holidays, open on training holidays

Godfather's Pizza: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Saturday and Sunday

Manchu Wok: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.

to 4 p.m.; closed Saturday and Sunday

Hunter Popeye's: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bryan Village Shoppette: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Troop Brigade: Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hospital Shoppette: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on holidays and training holidays


Main Shoppette: Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 9-10 a.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hunter Gas Kiosk: Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stewart Popeye's: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Stewart MCSS: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday

For more information, please call (912) 876-8880.



HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

DESTINATION	EXPRESS	1st CLASS	PRIORITY	PAL	SAM	PARCEL POST
APO/FPO AE 090- 092	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Past		
APO/FPO AE 093	N/A	Past	Past	Past		
APO/FPO AE 094-098	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Past		
APO/FPO AE 340	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Past		
APO/FPO AE 962-966	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Past		

EMMS: Express Mail Military Service is available to selected post offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO of address.

PAL: PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

SAM: SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

Education Matters

College classes open to all

The upcoming Fall II term dates both on-post and distance learning classes are listed below. Some courses are offered during the day. Classes are open to both the military and civilian communities. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College – Jan. 11-March 5; Stewart, 767-2070; Hunter, 315-4090

Columbia College – Jan. 11-March 6; Stewart; 767-5336; Hunter, 352-8635

Embry Riddle – Jan. 11-March 14; Stewart, 767-3930; Hunter; 352-5252

Webster University – Jan. 4-March 4; Stewart. 767-5357; Hunter, 354-0033

Savannah Tech College – Jan. 6-March 19; Stewart, 408-2430

Transition-to-Teaching sessions slated

The Georgia Troops to Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified service members of up to \$10,000 to become public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition to Teaching 90-minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options. The briefing is at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at Fort Stewart at 10 a.m., Dec. 16. Call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official Web site is *www.tttga.net*.

Teaching certification seminar offered

The Liberty Center Director of Teacher Education Program will conduct Georgia teacher certification seminars focusing on the Armstrong Atlantic State University Master of Arts in teaching program.

The M.A.T. allows those eligible individuals to pursue a graduate degree and obtain initial teacher certification in Georgia. The next session is at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education

Center at 5 p.m., Dec. 16. For additional information, please contact Don Stumpf at 877-1910 or e-mail *Don.Stumpf@armstrong.edu*.

Barbering, Cosmetology courses slated

A new 18-month Barbering and Cosmetology Program will begin at the Savannah Technical College Liberty campus in Hinesville, Jan. 6. This diploma program is being offered in the evenings, Mon.-Thurs. from 6-9 p.m., and every-other Sat. from 8 a.m.-noon. All applicants should consider applying for the HOPE Grant. For additional information, e-mail head cosmetology instructor Kim Cutter at *kcutter@savannahtech.edu*.

Educational funds available to spouses

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program, "MyCAA" is for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

This centralized, virtual program provides counseling and funding up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities; trade programs or college degrees. You may use the school of your choice, either selecting classroom or on-line delivery. All on-post and most area schools participate.

This process is all done on-line and by phone with Military One Source 1-800-342-9647. For complete details and to initiate an account, click on *https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa*.

Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The Veterans Administration Web site at *www.gibill.va.gov* provides in-depth eligibility information and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning transferability

to Family Members.

Individuals currently eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty or other similar programs, can continue under their program or make the decision to transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Since the choice is irrevocable, it will not be possible to switch back to the previous VA benefit program. It is recommended that you research the differences by clicking on the "More About the Post-9/11 GI Bill" bar and then selecting the benefit comparison chart link. Also try *www.gibill.va.gov/CH33Estimator*, which calculates the eligible tuition, fees and housing allowance for your zip code. If you have questions after exploring the Web site, call 888-442-4551.

E-mail counselor-support available

Need to reach an Army education counselor, even while deployed? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Just contact them via e-mail at *stewcounselor@conus.army.mil*.

Columbia College offers discount

Spouses of military personnel can take their first classroom course (in-seat) free while they complete their financial aid paperwork and enrollment procedures with Columbia College. The active-duty servicemember does not have to be taking classes with Columbia College. In addition, they will be granted a 20-percent discount for all future classes held at the education center. For more details, call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 for Hunter.

Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 767-7558 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$92 and DSSTs are \$100 for non-military examinees.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **1st Sgt. Michael Anderson**, of HHC, STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 should contact Capt. Anna Walls, HHC, STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 767-5613.

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Jamie Blasingame**, of B Co., 3rd BSB, 1st HBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 should contact 1st Lt.Shane McKinley, 3rd BSB, 1st HBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 220-5985.

Gate #3 closing

Beginning at 10 p.m. on Dec. 17 through Dec. 18, 2010, Avenue Access Control Point (Gate #3) will be closed. Subject closure is necessary to install the net for the Automated Vehicle Barrier at this gate. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed and posted for the closure duration. Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area during subject closure.

For additional information, please contact Alan Trowhill, Corps of Engineers, at 767-3287.

Continuing Education Services resume



The Department of the Army ACES contract stoppage has been lifted and normal Education Services have resumed.

The ACES Computer Lab is open and we are conducting Army Personnel and Academic Testing. Please call 767-8331 if you need more information.

\$500 REWARD OFFERED

A reward of \$500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of four Panasonic-42 inch plasma televisions which occurred between April 12 and 13, from a storage cage in building 3012, West 15th St., Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314. Anyone with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the Fort Stewart CID



Office, 30th MP DET (CID), 3rd MP Group (CID), Fort Stewart, Ga. at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga. (912) 767-4895. (912) 767-4895. The reward expires April 20, 2010. Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but

not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality. The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided. The reward expires May 29, 2010.



Why I choose to say 'no' to drugs

Tommy Kazmierczak

I choose not to use drugs but to stay healthy and fit. DARE is a program that tells you to refuse drugs and say "no," and the harmful effects. Drugs are harmful and affect the body in a lot of ways. Drugs are addictive, people abuse them, and they get sick. In the following paragraphs I will give facts about drugs, how they affect the body, and a person's behavior. I choose to stay drug free because drugs can tear your reputation apart.

Alcohol

I'm going to tell you about alcohol and how it affects the body. First, I will say that alcohol is illegal to anyone under the age of 21. Not only is alcohol harmful to you, but your actions can affect your peers. Alcohol is good at causing problems like loss of memory, coordination, balance and speech. Alcohol kills brain cells and if you drink too much you can become drunk or intoxicated. This all depends on your Blood Alcohol Level. That's what I have to say about alcohol.

Tobacco

I'm going to tell you about tobacco and how it affects the body. Tobacco is illegal to anyone under the age of 18. Smoking is bad for the organs. There are over 200 known poisons in tobacco and it kills 50 to 70 percent of brain cells. More than 400,000 people die from tobacco each year. Did you know that over 3,000 people die from other peoples' smoke? Smoking can be addictive from a drug called nicotine. The smoke exhaled is called carbon monoxide, a dangerous chemical that causes problems. Tobacco cause issues in the organs, respiratory problems, sores, headaches, cancer and more.

Avoiding alcohol and tobacco

I'm going to tell you about drugs and how to avoid them. To avoid drugs is not easy to refuse, especially when people force you to do it, even if you don't want to. This is called peer pressure. Tobacco is addicting because of the drug/poison nicotine. Alcohol and tobacco are used by



Tommy Kazmierczak

people that think they are cool. All you have to due is say no and walk away. Who wants to be by someone who smokes and drinks? There is something to help you, and it is called withdrawal. It helps you stop your addiction to drugs. It won't be easy; it might take days, weeks, months, and even years to stop the addiction. I can tell you one thing – not smoking will prolong your life!

Medicine and how it is used

I'm telling you about drugs, but not all drugs are bad. Medicine is a drug, and these are the drugs I am talking about. Medicine helps your body heal if it is used correctly. It is dangerous when you abuse medicine, when you use it when you are not sick. There are also two main ways to get medicine-one is prescription medicine, and the other is over the counter medicating. Prescribed medicine is medicine that the doctor prescribes and the doctor only can tell you how to use it and how it is kept. Over the counter medicine is the same but it does not need to be recommended by a doctor. One thing all medicines have in common is side effects; side effects are the possible negative effects of prescribed drugs. Drinking too much or overdosing is not good. That is when the side effects get painful or even deadly. Be sure to read the labels on the bottle about how to use it. Also, some medicine should be kept in cool temperatures like in refrigerators. There are also drugs that are illegal to sell, buy, have, or use. Here are some of them: marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. These are some of the facts about obtaining medicine.

What I learned

This is what I learned in DARE – alcohol and tobacco can really injure and damage a person. DARE has taught me a lot about drugs and how to stay drug free. I will stay drug free! I don't want to end up severely injured. I, as a DARE student, am encouraging you to stay drug free and not to start a horrible habit.

See Page 10A for more DARE essays.

Unit brings cash to outlying posts

By **Spc. Justin Naylor**
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq — For Soldiers at small outposts in Iraq, buying movies, hygiene products and luxury items isn't as easy as just going to a store and swiping a credit card.

Fortunately for these Soldiers, the finance troops from Charlie Detachment, 24th Finance Company, out of Fort Stewart, are always ready to bring much needed cash to small outposts throughout Kirkuk Province.

"You can't get anything out here without cash," said Spc. Jacob Sanchez, a Norwalk, Calif., native and a human resources specialist for 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Joint Security Station McHenry in Kirkuk province, Iraq. "There are no ATMs, and you can't use credit or debit cards at the stores."

So once a month, the finance troops restock the Soldiers at this and other bases in the province with cash.

"We give financial support to the Soldiers that don't have the option of coming in to the main finance office,"

said Sgt. Philip Smith, a Camarillo, Calif., native and a financial management support team noncommissioned officer in-charge with Charlie Detachment.

Sergeant Smith and other Soldiers from his detachment at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk visit three different outposts — Forward Operating Base Zaytun, Joint Security Station McHenry and Patrol Base Doria — for several days each month.

"We support about 1,200 Soldiers at these bases," said Sgt. Smith.

For the Soldiers at these out-of-the-way locations, there is an added benefit to having the finance Soldiers come by.

"If anyone has any questions or concerns about their pay, we can answer their questions, or we can take their paperwork back to fix their pay," explained Sgt. Smith.

"If a Soldier has messed up pay, it hurts them and their Families, so we try to fix that for them," said Spc. Blaine Berquist, a Puyallup, Wash., native and a cashier with Charlie Detachment.

Although traveling to remote bases throughout the province once a month can be quite a challenge — rides aren't



Spc. Justin Naylor

Sergeant Philip Smith, a financial management support team non-commissioned officer in-charge with Charlie Detachment, 24th Finance Company, types up financial information as a Soldier fills out paperwork to receive cash at Joint Security Station McHenry in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, Dec. 4.

always easy to find here — the rewards of helping Soldiers have the money and resources they need outweigh the trouble involved with the travel.

"I just like helping the Soldiers," said Sgt. Smith. "My job is to support the Soldiers with what they are doing here,

and that is the biggest reward for me."

"I am always very happy to see them come out here," said Spc. Sanchez.

And he isn't the only one. The lines outside of the finance tent often stretch out hundreds of feet.

Battle Boars celebrate far from home

Capt. Andrew Shadley
1st Battalion, 30th Inf. Regt. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – Spending time away from Family during the holidays may be difficult for the average American, but for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, it has become an accepted part of life. With consistent deployments, the Battle Boars are used to being away from their Families for the holidays. However, this Thanksgiving the Battle Boar Soldiers were able to give thanks and enjoy the holiday away from home with all the food and festivities that FOB Warrior had to offer.

The day's festivities began with a Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot. The run was sponsored by the Air Force and drew a crowd of roughly two hundred Soldiers and Airmen. All participants were given a T-Shirt and a water bottle when they finished. Command Sergeant Major Thomas Hitch said that the event was "well-planned and marked and everyone was able to work off some calories before the Thanksgiving meal."

Soldiers were able to gather in the FOB Warrior Chapel for an inter-faith worship service for both the Army and Air Force. The service featured readings from several of the different unit chaplains, along with music from a Soldier gospel choir. The service concluded with the singing of "America the Beautiful."

Of course, the highlight of any Thanksgiving is the meal, and the Warrior Dining Facility didn't disappoint. Aside from the usual turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce, the DFAC offered sparkling grape juice and eggnog, and even allowed Soldiers to take bottles back home. Dozens of cakes, pies, and pastries were displayed on tables full of festive Thanksgiving decorations. Leadership from the brigade, battalions, and companies on Warrior took part in serving the meal to Soldiers. Soldier morale was high as they walked from the serving line to their table with plates piled high and weighed down with food.

"While it wasn't Thanksgiving with the Family, the Army definitely did its best to make us feel at home here," said Staff Sgt. Nathan O'Daniel.

That same sentiment was echoed by many Soldiers, as they enjoyed both the food and the atmosphere.

Military, community honor fallen at Warriors Walk

Denise Ethridge
Coastal Courier

Fallen Soldiers should not be forgotten and their memorials should be eternally maintained. This sentiment is shared by many, both on and off Fort Stewart.

Thus, the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee, GeoVista Credit Union, area veterans and Soldiers collaborated in replacing worn brigade flag markers at Warriors Walk with new ones, Dec. 2. The new metal markers were placed at the foot of the 241 Eastern Redbud trees planted along the walk that borders Cottrell Field.

"This will serve as a lasting reminder of our Soldiers who served so valiantly," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin, garrison command sergeant major, as he thanked those who participated in the project.

Command Sergeant Major Ervin said committee members and GeoVista Credit Union representatives approached the installation and expressed a desire to do something for the 3rd Infantry Division and Warriors Walk. Ervin then contacted the 92nd Engineer Battalion, "the Black Diamonds," with a request to weld the metal brigade flag markers.

The new markers have the Marne symbol on one side and the fallen Soldier's unit symbol on the other. This will help Family Members and visitors more easily locate a particular memorial on Warriors Walk, Command Sgt. Maj. Ervin said.

"The units had provided the cloth (flag markers) for the memorials. After a while, the cloth didn't withstand the weather as well," said P.J. Schneider of the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee. Schneider said Fort Stewart officials suggested the committee help with replacing the worn markers.

"We collected the funds," he said. "GeoVista stepped up and picked up the cost for half the (markers)."

"Last year we donated over \$3,000," said Mary Hancock, GeoVista spokesperson. "This year we donated over \$3,000. The dollar amount is not important. What is important are our Soldiers and their Families."

Schneider explained this is the second time the committee and GeoVista have helped with Warriors Walk metal markers. The first effort



Photo by Jimmy McSalters, Multimedia /Visual Information Service Center

Garrison Command Sergeant Major James E. Ervin; assisted by Spc. Evan Hite and Spc. Americo Sedillo, both from 92nd Eng. Bn.; Barbara Martin, Geo Vista Credit Union; P.J. Schneider, Hinesville Military Affairs Committee; and Paul Spence, Veteran of the Year and chairman of the Liberty County Veterans Council; place the first of 450 brigade Colors prepared by Spc. Hite and Spc. Sedillo at Cottrell Field, Dec. 2.

resulted in 137 markers, he said. More than twice that number of markers were produced this time.

Specialist Evan Hite and Spc. Americo Sedillo of the 92nd Engineer Battalion were asked to weld the 450 metal markers. Extra markers were made for future use.

"I felt pride in the work that we did," Spc. Sedillo said. "It's kind of depressing, but at the same time, it's important to remember the Soldiers."

"It's very important for the families that these areas are well maintained," Spc. Hite said.

The two Soldiers put in long hours on the project. In fact, they labored over the metal markers while their battalion trained in the field last month. The 92nd Engineers are scheduled to deploy to Iraq in April.

"We worked from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day for two weeks," Spc. Hite said.

The young Army welders agreed Warriors Walk should be cared for year-round, not just during the holidays.

Warriors Walk will receive added holiday greenery during the annual wreath-laying ceremony slated for noon, Saturday. Holiday wreaths will be placed at each of the eastern redbud trees.



Warriors Walk is the Fort Stewart living memorial that borders Cottrell Field on two sides, and consists of three meandering sidewalks and 421 Eastern Redbud trees.

Each tree represents a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier who has made the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation's freedom. A granite marker identifies each Soldier and a single spotlight illuminates skyward, giving the cool night air a respective glow. Family and friends visit this hallowed ground, leaving flowers and pictures and mementoes reflecting a remembrance of love, which will never fade.

Wreaths for Warriors Walk, a local nonprofit organization comprised of Fort Stewart employees, veterans and local volunteers, was founded in 2007 with the goal of placing a holiday wreath at each of the trees along Warriors Walk. In 2007, about 500 people attended the inaugural event. In 2008, an estimated 3,000 people,

including 200 Family Members of fallen Soldiers, attended the second-annual ceremony.

At noon this Saturday, Wreaths for Warriors Walk will hold the 3rd Annual Wreath Ceremony to honor each of these fallen heroes. The ceremony will begin with a moment of silence, which coincides with the national wreath laying ceremony in Arlington Cemetery. The national anthem will resonate among the trees and guest speakers will commemorate this special day. The somber, reflective ceremony will culminate with Family Members, fellow Soldiers, friends and guests placing individual wreaths at the base of each and every one of the 421 trees.

To sponsor a wreath for \$15, to volunteer or for more information, visit the event Web site at www.w4ww.org. You can also hear the specially arranged song "400 Names at Warriors Walk" and see a video set to the Tim McGraw song, "If You're Reading This."

3 ID, Benedictine remember Pearl Harbor



Photos by Nancy Gould

ABOVE: Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, 3rd ID deputy commanding general-rear, senior cadets, staff members and veterans of Benedictine Military School watch cadets march by the reviewing stand during Gannam Day, an annual event that honors a 1938 graduate who perished at Pearl Harbor.

RIGHT: The school's God and Country Medal was presented to Cadet Capt. Anthony L. DeVanea (rear), and the George K. Gannam Medal to Cadet Staff Sgt. James C. Reintzell (front) by Brig. Gen. Phillips.

Nancy Gould
Hunter Army Airfielf Public Affairs

Benedictine Military School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets marched in formation on the school's parade field while friends and staff members and veterans watched from the stands, Dec. 7.

Gannam Day, a solemn event, is held each year at the school to honor 1938 school graduate Staff Sgt. George K. Gannam, the first Savannahian to die for his country during World War II, perishing in the attack on Pearl Harbor 68 years ago.

American Legion Post 184 in Thunderbolt, Ga., is named in Staff Sgt. Gannam's honor. Every year, representatives from the post attend the ceremony and present the Gannam Award to the most outstanding sophomore cadet, and the God and Country Award to an outstanding senior cadet.

This year's God and Country Medal was presented to Cadet Capt. Anthony L. DeVanea and the George K. Gannam Medal to Cadet Staff Sgt. James

C. Reintzell by Brig. Gen. Phillips, 3rd Infantry Division deputy commanding general-rear.

Staff Sergeant Gannam's nephew, Joe Gannam, a BC graduate, was also present at the ceremony. He accepted a flag in Staff Sgt. Gannam's memory from the senior ranking-cadet, and presented it to the school to fly over the all-male campus the following school year.

"This flag is a living symbol of the legacy of all who gave their lives," said Joe Gannam. "We live up to that legacy today with people still fighting and dying for our freedom."

Brigadier General Jeffery Phillips spoke at those gathered and remembered the Soldiers and servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan who are still fighting for freedom.

He reminded them of the passive mindset of the country at that historic time.

"We were inattentive and deluded," he said, referring to the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. "We



didn't think what was happening would affect us."

Brigadier General Phillips said that we should remember the tragedy of Pearl Harbor as well as the tragedy of 9/11, so that we won't forget again.

"We responded to the 9/11 attack with quick resolve," Brig. Gen. Phillips said. "That's what we do. We go to lands we've never seen and defend people we've never met, leaving freedom in our footsteps."

Brigadier General Phillips' final challenge to the BC cadets was to be the best they can be and to strive to make a difference in the lives of others in the pursuit of freedom.

"Evil triumphs when good men do nothing," he continued. "Those we honor today did something. They fought and made a difference."

68 years and counting: remembering Pearl Harbor

J. Elise Van Pool
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

"This is not maneuvers. This is the real McCoy. We are being bombed by the Japanese," said the radio announcer, as Connie Jack, 13 years old at the time, sat in the car listening.

It was a Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, and her father had just arrived to get her brother, mother and she from Sunday school.

"I will never forget that," Jack said.

The day had started out like any typical Sunday. Her cousin, John Boden, a Sailor stationed at Pearl Harbor, had joined them for his weekend liberty, and the Family was gathering around the table eating breakfast before leaving for church.

"Someone had flicked on the radio and we heard immediately that Pearl Harbor was being attacked...when he (Boden) heard the news he said 'I got to get back to my ship.'

"He kept saying 'don't worry, don't worry. They have been on strict maneuvers all week. Don't worry.'"

Jack's father dropped her brother, mother and she off at church on the way downtown to drop John at the bus stop so he could get back to the harbor. He immediately returned to fetch the three.

"Come on. This is not just maneuvers," Jack remembers him saying

They got in the car and raced to her grandfather's house, who lived on the side of Punch Bowl Mountain. The Family's house in the Manoa Valley was considered to be safer at the time, and they were going to bring her grandfather back to stay with them.

"From Grandpa's house, we could see out over Pearl Harbor. We could see smoke coming up from the ships," Jack said. "But Grandpa wouldn't leave. He was an old sea captain, and he would not leave his ship, so we stayed and watched what was going on out there.

"We could hear the guns and see the smoke. My mother ran outside in the yard and said, 'Oh look,' and pointed in the sky. 'There is a plane. I can see the rising sun on the wing.'

"My father said, 'Get back in here,

you fool. You could get shot!'"

Jack then explained the Japanese pilots were strafing cars stuck in traffic trying to get down to the harbor.

"We were so worried about John," she remembered. "We were so worried he was not going to make it back to his ship, but he did."

Although Jack's grandfather would not leave, it was decided the Family should return home.

"By evening time, all the radio stations were off the air. The only thing we could listen to were police calls. We were waiting for them (the Japanese) to come back. We were sure they were going to land on Waikiki beach and wipe us all out," Jack said, describing the fear most islanders felt that first night. Her father, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, walked the neighborhood that evening, telling neighbors to turn out their lights, to ensure an island wide blackout.

Life on the island after that changed dramatically. The island was under martial law, and Jack's school was taken over by the Army Corps of Engineers for the duration of the

war. For the rest of her time on the island, she attended school in private homes. Citizens were also issued gas masks.

"We never went any place without a gasmask, in case we had an attack and they dropped gas bombs," she said. "We wore them over our shoulder, just like you wore a purse."

The next summer, the Family decided to move back to the mainland where Jack's mother was from.

"It changed my life," Jack said. "I don't know that we would have ever moved back to the mainland (had the attack not happened)."

The Family sold most of their possessions, as each passenger on the voyage was only allowed one suite case and one box and made their way to Fallon, Nev.

Jack's Family move to Nevada became permanent. She finished school there then attended the University of Nevada. She later married and started a Family.

"It was amazing what happened during that war, how our country got together," Jack reflected. "We rebuilt all those ships and won the war."

LIGHT

from Page 1A

"With the Humvee, you have more freedom to move, and it's easier to communicate," said Spc. Joe Casper, Troop A gunner and Omaha, Neb., native.

Specialist Casper, along with Cpl. Travis Robbins and Spc. Steve Werner, qualified their weapon system during their squadron's "light" gunnery Table VIII at Fort Stewart, Dec. 3. Corporal Robbins, an Owensboro, Ky., native, said it was good communication and cohesion that helped his crew obtain a perfect daytime, live-fire score.

In addition to daytime live-fire, Table VIII gunnery also requires troops to engage targets from stationary and moving vehicle positions at night and under Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear conditions.

"Soldiers are evaluated on time, fire commands and of course, hitting their targets," said Sgt. Peter Schnurrer, vehicle crew evaluator.

He added that Soldiers need at least 700 points and must pass two of the three night engagements to qualify.

"This is good training," Sgt. Schnurrer said. "This is how we make our money - shooting targets."

The Mustang Squadron continues to practice single-vehicle wheeled gunnery training this week and is slated to begin platoon, live-fire training in January 2010.



Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

Sergeant Charles Landeros, Troop B, 6/8 Cav., scans his lane from a Humvee gunner turret during "light" Table VIII Gunnery at Fort Stewart, Dec. 3.

D.A.R.E. Report

Why I choose to say 'no' to drugs

JaQuan Joshua

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, better known as D.A.R.E. or DARE, is an international education program that seeks to prevent the use of illegal drugs, membership in gangs, and violent behavior. D.A.R.E. was founded in 1983 by Los Angeles Police chief Darryl Gates and Glenn Levante. The D.A.R.E. program is implemented in 75 percent of our nation's school districts and more than 43 countries around the world. D.A.R.E. is a series of classroom lessons given by police officers to school age children in grades kindergarten to 12th. The D.A.R.E. program gave me the knowledge I need to avoid alcohol, the strength to make good decisions, and the power to say no to drugs.

The D.A.R.E. program taught me the many dangers of alcohol. Alcohol can cause a person to develop heart and liver disease. I learned that alcohol can slur a person speech, and it can cause his vision to be blurred. In the D.A.R.E. program, I learned that alcohol is very addictive, and it reduces a person coordination and alertness. The thing that is stuck in my

mind about alcohol is that when a person drinks and drives, he is putting his life along with the life of others in harm's way. Some of the end results of drinking and driving are in the hospital, in the county jail, or in the cemetery.

D.A.R.E. has such a positive influence on me that it gave me the strength to make good decisions. In the D.A.R.E. program I learned that peer pressure is when someone is forcing you to do something that you don't want to do. I learned that people who pressure others into doing bad things have very low self-esteem. There are different techniques used to force kids to do what they don't want to do. Some of the ways we may be pressured into doing things that are wrong might be by them calling us names, which are forms of teasing, or they might bully us into doing it. The three

things I learned in D.A.R.E. to help me deal with peer pressure is to tell an adult, run away from that person, or simply tell them, "No, I'm not going to do what you want me to do." I realize that when I do the right thing I am building up my self-esteem.

I learned that it is very important to say no to drugs and to stay drug free. I think the most commonly abused illicit drug by teenagers today is marijuana. Marijuana is highly addictive and can be smoked as a cigarette or in a pipe. In the D.A.R.E. program I learned that drugs can cause heart disease, memory loss,

and breathing problems. This program gave me the power to say no to drugs if I am ever confronted and asked to do drugs. I also learned that there are many dangers of tobacco. Tobacco can cause a person to develop brain and lung cancer along with

heart and breathing problems. So, the best way to avoid drugs is to just say no.

I want to thank the D.A.R.E. program for giving me the knowledge I now have to avoid alcohol, the strength I received to make good decisions, and my new found power to say no to drugs. Everything I was taught in the D.A.R.E. program I will carry forward with me into my teen and adult years. The D.A.R.E. program made me realize that I am strong enough to make good choices about my body.

I am going to talk to my younger brother and sister about the different ways alcohol and drugs can harm their bodies. I will also make sure they understand the many rewards of making good decisions. I want to thank Officer Barren for taking the time to share his knowledge about alcohol, good decision making, and drugs with my class.

I, JaQuan Joshua, pledge to myself, my parents, Officer Barren, Ms. Momon and everyone in my life that I will not do alcohol and drugs. I also promise that I will make wise decisions about my life.



JaQuan Joshua

D.A.R.E. Report

Why I choose to say 'no' to drugs

Dakota Lucas

D.A.R.E stands for drug, abuse, resistance, and education. It is a program that teaches you about the harmful affects of drugs and violence. In D.A.R.E., I have learned that drugs are anything that change your body and also that there are good drugs such as medicines prescribed by a responsible doctor or given to you by a knowledgeable adult.

There are also bad drugs such as cigarettes, alcohol, or other harmful drugs. I also learned that I have to make good choices to help other people learn about the harmful effects that drugs have.

There are different types of harmful drugs. Tobacco and marijuana are two examples. Both can and will be highly addictive and will change your life. You will start looking different, talking differently, not be able to play sports, and push those you love away.

These are just a few of the consequences you pay when doing drugs. I choose to never do drugs because if I did, I would be killing myself for something that in the end will take life away from me, not help me live a happy life.

Alcohol is a drug that takes time to kill you. It is an addiction just like drugs. It slows your brain down

and doesn't allow it to function correctly as well as your body. Mixing alcohol with medicine is very dangerous as well and risky. Most people do not realize or want to admit they have a drinking problem until it is too late. More than 100,000 deaths in the U.S are caused by drinking too much alcohol.

Peer pressure refers to an influence on someone's attitude or behavior. Peer pressure is one way that leads to smoking, drinking alcohol, and violence. There is also good peer pressure such as trying to convince a fellow student not to cheat on a test. A good way to handle negative peer pressure is to just say NO.

The D.A.R.E decision making model helps kids of all ages make good decisions in life. Many kids also learn the truth about drugs. The steps are D-define, A-assess, R-respond, and E-evaluate. These steps can help myself and well as others in making good decisions.

Just to wrap it up, D.A.R.E is a program that helps kids understand the truth about drugs, alcohol, and violence. It makes them want to fight against them, help others in need, and learn to say no to negative peer pressure. It is not right to do damage to your mind and body or kill yourself by doing drugs or



Dakota Lucas

drinking alcohol.

I pledge on this day, to use my knowledge and resources to educate every person I come in contact with about drugs and alcohol in hopes to win the fight against them.

Operation Homefront assists Soldiers, Families

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Times are hard all over. As of November 2009, the unemployment rate is up to 10.2 percent. This makes the holidays even more stressful than normal.

The economy woes are felt by people from all walks of life, including the military. This is where Operation Homefront steps up to help.

Operation Homefront is a non-profit organization that provides emergency and morale assistance the troops, Families and wounded warriors when they return home. They lead more than 4,500 volunteers in 30 chapters nationwide and have met more than 105,000 needs of military Families.

This holiday season, the Georgia chapter set up a holiday toy shop at the Liberty County YMCA for Families of deployed Soldiers and for other military Families, Dec. 4

"We do this once every four years," said Christina Anthony, Family services director for Operation Homefront and the Liberty County YMCA. "We are distributing more than 10,000 toys to more than 800 Families. Each child is given three toys from our racks."

The toys were brought in the day before from the Walmart distribution center in Douglas, Ga. and set up by

volunteers and Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade. The toys were donated completely free of charge by Walmart.

"At Douglas, it's always one of our favorite charity to work with Soldiers, so this is enjoyable for us as well," said Paul Terry, safety manager for Walmart distribution center in Douglas, Ga.

The Soldiers are happy to help and volunteer their time as well.

"We're always involved in some type of contribution for the community," said Pfc James Lewis, 135th Quartermaster Co., 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Bde. "That's what we're here for; to give back to the community that gives so much to us. Everybody needs a helping hand. It makes you feel good to see other people smiling."

The more than 50 Soldiers showed up in the early morning hours the day before to help set up, decorate, separate the presents by age group and distribute them to the Families as they came to the toy shop, said Myra Ebner, operations director for Operation Homefront Georgia.

"It's been really good," said Ebner. "They've been troopers and really helped us out all day long. There is just no way we could do this without their help."

She went on to tell a story about



Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson

Specialist Micheal Casteel, 135th QM Co., 87th CSSB, 3rd Sustainment Bde. hands a toy over to Rachele White, a volunteer, for Shay Davis's son, whose father Marquis Davis is currently deployed, during Operation Homefront's toy shop at the Liberty County YMCA, Dec. 4.

Gen. David Petraeus, the then multi-national force Iraq commanding general.

"General Petraeus was asked last year, 'If you could ask your troops, who are currently in Afghanistan and Iraq,

what they want or need?' He answered, very simply, 'Take care of our Families,'" said Ebner.

"That's our job, to take care of military Families, and that's what we are trying to help accomplished here."



Field Artillerymen honor Saint Barbara

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk, 4th IBCT Public Affairs

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan LaPorte, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander; Sgt. Jose Osvaldo Montanez, oldest 1/76 FA Soldier; Spc. Earl McCorkle, youngest 1/76 FA Soldier; and 1st Sgt. Jack Glasscock, acting 1/76 FA command sergeant major; cut the cake to honor Saint Barbara Day during a Dining-Out at Club Stewart, Dec. 5. Saint Barbara Day falls on Dec. 4 and is traditionally recognized by U.S. Army and Marine Corps field and air defense artillery with a formal Dining-In, Dining-Out or military ball.

Kid Rock jams during 'Tour for troops'

Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas

2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq — Kid Rock and the Twisted Brown Trucker Band entertained servicemembers at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq, Dec. 2.

"Tour for the Troops 2009," formerly known as Operation Season's Greetings, also included comedian Carlos Mencia and singer/songwriter Jessie James. The two-week event, which began in Europe and will travel throughout Southwest Asia, is their way of thanking the troops for their work and sacrifices.

The concert on FOB Warrior began with James, who sang several songs from her debut album. James, whose father is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, hoped the event would allow servicemembers to take a break from their duties to relax.

"I hope the troops take away a good time," James said. "I think they need a break from all this, just smile and act like boys and crazy girls."

James said her favorite part of performing for the troops was seeing them enjoy themselves. She feels that it's important for celebrities to show their support because without the servicemembers, they wouldn't have the freedoms to perform.

James was followed by Mencia, who performed for nearly an hour using his distinctive wit and upbringing as an immigrant to keep the crowd

laughing.

"I'm just here to entertain, to give a little piece of home and to tell some jokes about back home and make people remember that there are a lot of us out there that care," Mencia said.

Mencia said following his visits overseas to entertain troops, he receives unbelievable praise and credit.

"People write about me and people say 'Hey Carlos, thanks for performing for the troops' but, when you [servicemembers] go home you don't get that kind of fanfare, and you're here sacrificing way more than I could ever imagine."

The final and main event of the evening was Kid Rock, who had crowds cheering as he performed songs, including his "Rock and Roll Jesus" and "All Summer Long."

Performing for the troops is great because the military is the most receptive audience in the world, Rock explained.

Rock said he was raised to be very patriotic, which was evident even in his early music and that he started doing anything he could for the military. Rock also said this was his fifth concert tour in support of the troops.

"It makes me feel great to be here and play my music, have people respond and that makes me feel great anywhere, but to do it over here is extra special," Rock said.

Rock said it's important for everyone to show their support for the troops because while Soldiers don't create policy, they execute it and people should never lose sight of that.

"I'm in the entertainment industry, and I think it's important to [entertain troops] because we, more so than anyone, enjoy and take full advantage of all the freedoms that they protect for us," Rock said. "To give a little bit back and say 'thank you,' to use your God-given talent to entertain the people that do so much for us I think is the least we can do."

Prior to the concert at FOB Warrior, the tour made a stop at nearby Join Security Station McHenry, near



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas

Singer Jessie James performs songs from her debut album during a concert at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Dec. 2. James, along with singer Kid Rock and comedian Carlos Mencia, is performing throughout Southwest Asia and Europe as part of an U.S. Air Force Reserve sponsored tour dubbed "Tour for the Troops 2009."

Hawijah, in Kirkuk province. Soldiers were able to get memorabilia autographed and photos with the stars.

"It's kind of a 'wow its Kid Rock' thing," said Pfc. Benjamin Whittaker, a Boise, Idaho, native and an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"I am a big fan, and it's a good present to get to see someone famous before we leave Iraq," Pfc. Whittaker said. "It was a surprise to hear Kid Rock was coming, because no one really famous has come to visit us. It's good to see people remember we are here."

For another Soldier at McHenry who is several weeks from completing his deployment to Iraq, the visit was the perfect send-off for him and a great way to welcome his replacement.

"I think it says a lot about their character, because they came here to support the troops and it shows that we are not alone," said 1st Lt. Billy Bridges, a Killeen, Texas, native and an infantry officer with 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. "This is good for the incoming troops, because it shows that they are not alone out here, and it is a good going away present for the people who are getting ready to go home."



Comedian Carlos Mencia entertains servicemembers at FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Dec. 2. Mencia performed with singers Kid Rock and Jessie James as part of "Tour for the Troops 2009."

Spartans earn combat patch

By **Spc. Dustin Gautney**
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – First-time deployed Soldiers from 2nd “Spartan” Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division joined the ranks of their fellow combat-deployed Spartan brothers and sisters as they donned the Marne patch during a Combat Patch Ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Marez, in northern Iraq, Dec. 2.

“Although the majority of our Army today has earned the combat patch, we know that many of us will wear it for the first time today,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Sid Taylor, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, during the ceremonies benediction.

Chaplain Taylor also said that all of the Soldiers receiving the combat patch can now claim a status that few Americans can – as a combat veteran. Although the simple piece of cloth cannot ever fully capture the weight and meaning of the patch, it symbolizes a lasting commitment and bond to all those Soldiers who have come before.

The combat patch originated in World War I from a

South Carolina unit located at Wildcat Creek. The unit’s officers used the simple wildcat symbol to distinguish Soldiers from the unit on the battlefield. In 1917, all of the U.S. Army units were commissioned to design their own symbol and adopted the tradition of bearing the unit patch on their left sleeve.

“Even though some of the origin of the Marne patch is lost in history, it is believed the three bars represent the three campaigns of the Third Division as well as the three white stripes representing purity,” said Col. Charles E.A. Sexton, commander, 2nd HBCT, of the history of the Marne patch.

Colonel Sexton also said that in World War II was the first use of an official combat patch. The display of the patch on the right sleeve was used to distinguish Soldiers who have been deployed overseas in support of their country.

“Thousands have deployed under this patch and everyone should be proud to wear the symbol on their sleeve of a combat infantry division that has so much history behind it,” said Col. Sexton.



Pfc. Gregory Gieske

ABOVE: Major Sid Taylor, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, receives his combat patch from Capt. Leah Lato and 1st Sgt. Derrick Flowers, both from HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, during 2nd Brigade’s Combat Patch ceremony held at FOB Marez, Iraq, Dec 2.



LEFT: Standing at parade rest during 2nd HBCT's Combat Patch ceremony, Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment present their company Colors before receiving their Marne patch, Dec 2.

For more Stewart - Hunter community events, check out
the December **Quality Time** now available!

Spc. Dustin Gautney

Soldiers from 3/7 Cav., 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID await commands as they participate in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at FOB Diamondback, Mosul, Iraq, Nov. 27.



Spartans take over Ninewa Province

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – Over the past week, each battalion from 2nd “Spartan” Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, located in the Ninewa Province, Iraq, unveiled their battle Colors during individual ceremonies.

The ceremonies represented the change of authority from the Soldiers of 3rd “Greywolf” Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division to the battalions of the Spartan brigade. Having assumed full responsibility of Ninewa Province, Spartan Soldiers began their fourth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Today is a great day as we mark the passing of the torch from one fantastic unit to another,” said Lt. Col. William Lindner, commander, 3rd Squadron,

7th Cavalry, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID.

Lieutenant Colonel Lindner also said that over the past two weeks, the leaders and Soldiers of the 3rd HBCT, 1st Cav. Div. have been available to answer every question, afforded every courtesy and extended a hand wherever it was needed, during the transfer of authority process.

“There is no possible way to completely transfer the knowledge and experience gained over the past 11 months in this complex terrain from one unit to another,” said Lt. Col. Lindner. “But I would have a hard time believing that anyone could have done more than the Greywolves did to successfully prepare us for the mission we assume today.”

Colonel Gary Volesky, commander, 3rd HBCT, 1st Cav. Div., agreed that the time the two brigades have spent together has been a great learning experience for every Soldier – Greywolf and Spartan – that will

help the each of the battalion’s mission in Iraq.

“Your (Spartan) Soldiers have been open minded and willing to learn from the experiences of the battalions you replace, you are ready to assume the mission,” said Col. Volesky. “Good luck as you sprint to the finish line of the mission in Iraq.”

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Williams, commander, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, reinforced to all in attendance that 1/9 FA, as well as every Spartan battalion, is ready to assume the mission at hand.

“We are trained and ready to assume this position and understand we cannot do it without our great counter parts, the Iraqi Security Forces and the government of Iraq, who risk their lives on a daily basis to preserve the momentum required to achieve a stable and secure Ninewa Province,” Lt. Col. Williams said.